

Thomson Basin – Local Water Report 2019

Introduction

This is our annual Local Water Report for our Thomson customers. This report provides information on:

- how our rivers fared last season (2018-19);
- groundwater level trends;
- the number of irrigation licences in each of our systems;
- how much water irrigators used last season compared with previous years; and
- emerging local water issues.

What happened with your local rivers last season?

Avon River & Valencia Creek – Season 2018-2019

During the past irrigation season very little winter, spring or autumn rainfall meant the Avon River and Valencia Creek experienced an extremely high number of pumping restrictions and Ban days, with the number of unrestricted pumping days down on the previous 2017-2018 season. Valencia Creek irrigators had pumping restrictions for whole of the year with no days of unrestricted pumping available.

The 2018-2019 season started with both the Avon River & Valencia Creek being on pumping restrictions. This continued through to mid-August 2018 where some rainfall allowed the Avon River pumping restrictions to be removed until mid-September 2018 when restrictions were reintroduced. During this period the Valencia Creek remained on roster with its catchment continuing to miss out on rainfall.

With no further significant rain received, restrictions continued off and on through to early November 2018 and from this period onward to early June 2019 both systems were placed on Ban. Minor rainfall in June 2019 allowed the Ban to be removed but restrictions still remained in place until the end of the season.

So far, this season is shaping up to be very dry. Minimal winter, spring or autumn rainfall has meant that restrictions have already been introduced for the current irrigation season and with little promising rainfall forecast, this season shapes as being similar to last season

The table below shows the restrictions on the Avon River and Valencia Creek for the 2018-2019 season:

Waterway	Number of days					
	Unrestricted	Stage 1 Roster	Stage 2 Roster	Stage 3 Roster	Stage 4 Roster	BAN
Avon River Section 1	69	22	31	34	39	170
Avon River Sections 2, 3A & 3B	74	20	28	39	33	171

Valencia Creek	0	157	n/a	n/a	n/a	208
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Other Rivers & Creeks

Poor rainfall throughout the year meant that other river and creek systems within the Thomson basin also struggled to maintain sufficient flows. Being a drier season than the previous one, irrigation demand was noticeable down due to insufficient flows available for irrigation, with end of season meter reads taken showing that 11.5% of available licensed entitlement was used (does not include the Avon River & Valencia Creek usage). This usage figure is down on the previous 2017-2018 season's usage of 24.0%.

Rosters and restrictions

When river, creek and groundwater levels drop, we often have to introduce rosters, restrictions or bans to ensure a fair distribution of available water to all licence holders.

You can find your area's hotline number and local management rules by visiting www.srw.com.au/customer/rosters-and-restrictions

Surface water figures

The table below compares last season's usage with previous years.

River system ¹	Number of licences	Licensed volume (ML)	Total Volume Extracted (ML)				
			2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Avon River	86	6760	3,543	3,514	3,117	3,316	2,991
Valencia Creek	16	1467.6	332	658	1,001	1,153	1,143
Thomson Basin Misc SW			296	630	493	521	347
Total			4,171	4,802	4,611	4,990	4,481

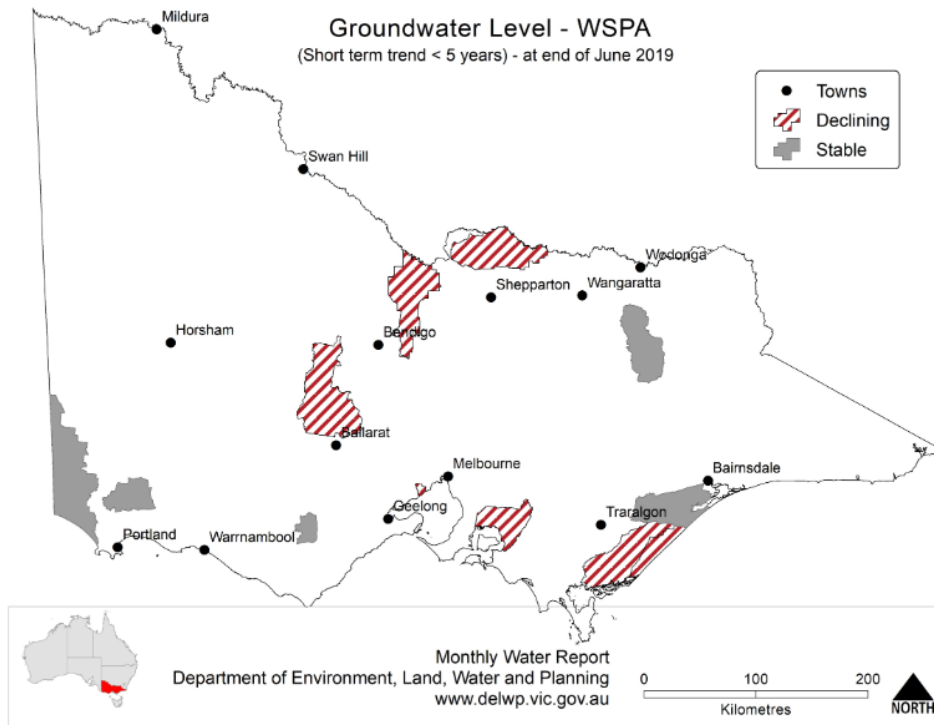
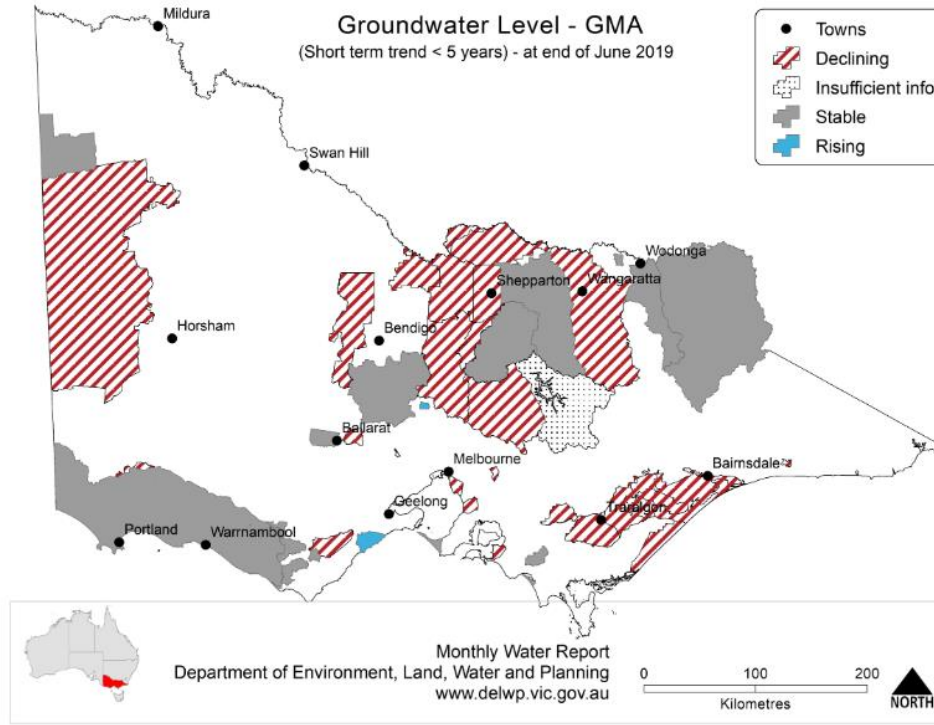
¹ Does not including farm dam registrations

What's happening with your local groundwater?

Overview

There are five Groundwater Management Units within the Thomson basin (Denison, Sale, Rosedale, Stratford and Wa De Lock). Denison and Wa De Lock aquifers are thin shallow alluvial deposits that are associated with river valleys. The Sale and Rosedale aquifers are deeper sand aquifers, while the Stratford sand aquifer is the deepest. The bedrock aquifer covers most of the basin; it has limited quality and yield, and is mostly used for domestic and stock purposes.

Follow this link if you would like to know more about groundwater management in your area http://www.srw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Central-Gippsland-Moe-GCS_August-2016.pdf

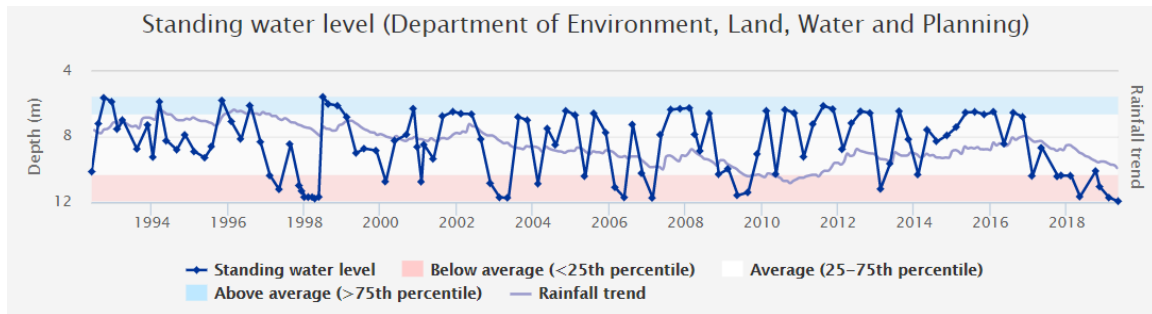


Use this [link](#) to view groundwater trends across Victoria.

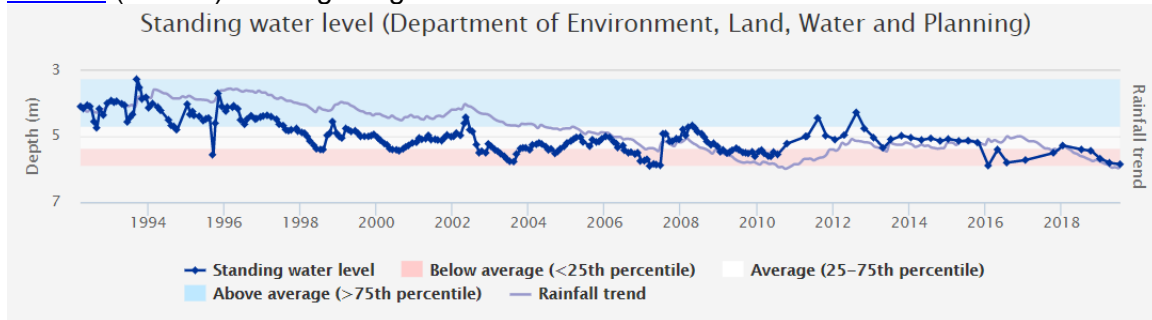
Wa De Lock

Wa De Lock GMA received 413mm of rain at the Valencia Creek rain gauge station which was approximately 250mm less than the long term average of 667m. Groundwater usage last year was 9,481ML compared to the long term average of 6,992ML.

Average water levels this year are below the long term average (below 25th percentile)



[110166](#) (Zone 3) Briagolong-Valencia Creek Rd



[95489](#) - Tinamba-Newry Rd

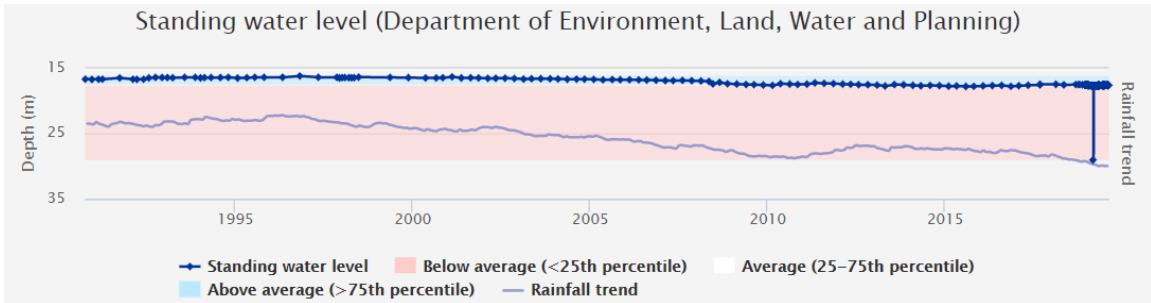
Denison

Denison GMA received 372mm of rain at the Glenmaggie Weir rain gauge station which was approximately 250mm less than the long-term average of 630mm. Groundwater usage last year was 11,192ML compared to the long-term average of 7,324ML.

Rosedale

Rosedale GMA received 443mm of rain at the Traralgon EPA rain gauge station which was approximately 170mm less than the long-term average of 613mm. Groundwater usage last year was 9,411ML compared to the long-term average of 6,619ML.

Average water levels this year are below the long-term average (below 25th percentile)



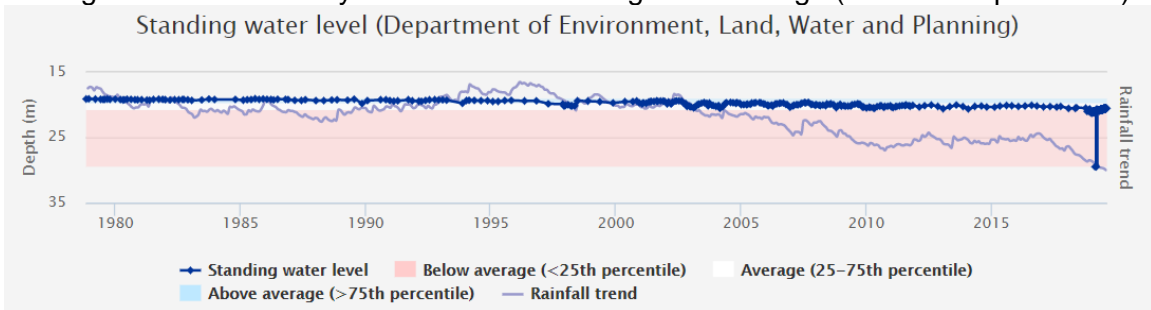
[103811](#) – Bowmans Lane

Sale

Sale GMA received 383mm of rain at the East Sale rain gauge station which was approximately 210mm less than the long-term average of 593mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 17,751ML compared to the long-term average of 11,239ML.

Average water levels this year are below the long-term average (below 25th percentile)



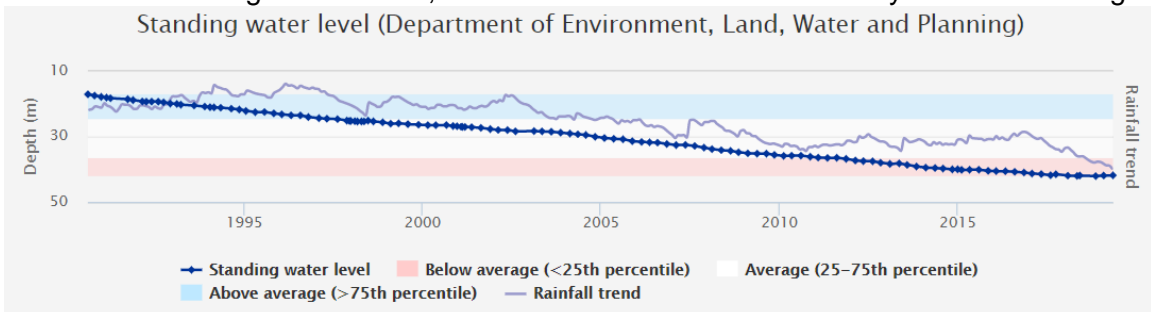
[65762](#) Lyles Rd Sale

Stratford

Stratford GMA received 390mm of rain at the Maffra rain gauge station which was approximately 140mm less than the long-term average of 531mm.

Groundwater usage last year was 110ML compared to the 10 year average of 39ML.

Groundwater levels are slowly declining in this deeper aquifer, mainly due to the effects of offshore oil and gas extraction, and also because of Latrobe Valley mine dewatering.



[47063](#) – Romawi Road

To find out more information about the bore depths in your area visit https://www.vvg.org.au/vvg_map.php

Groundwater figures

The table below compares last season's usage with the previous four years.

Groundwater system	Number of licences	Licensed volume (ML)	Total Volume Extracted (ML)				
			2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Wa De Lock	237	26,310	9,481	7,597	6,235	6,560	5,363
Denison ²	114	13,165	11,191	7,144	6,191	7,048	5,303
Rosedale ^{1,2}	60	12,726	9,411	7,959	6,713	6,198	5,772
Sale ²	106	20,851	17,867	14,447	11,982	10,172	8,762
Stratford ^{1,2}	9	836	110	18	15	22	3
Unincorporated	90	9,662	2,988	2,248	1,733	1,609	1,419
Total	616	83,550	51,048	39,415	32,869	31,609	26,622

1 Excludes entitlements for power generation

2 Partially contained within the Thomson Basin

Water trading

The table below shows the number and volume (ML) of water trades. Temporary and permanent volume trades show water trades across different location, as distinct from ownership changes that are part of land transfers.

Previous years water trade ML volumes , numbers and traded price can be found at: <http://waterregister.vic.gov.au/water-trading/take-and-use-licence-trading>

Basin / GMU	Permanent trade		Temporary trade	
	Number of trades	Traded volume (ML)	Number of trades	Traded volume (ML)
Wa De Lock GMU	1	14.3	12	706
Denison GMU	3	250	34	2835
Rosedale GMU	5	247	5	210
Sale GMU	4	580	39	3276.2
Stratford GMU	1	41	2	13
Thomson Basin	0	0	2	193

More information

For more information about rural water use in your area, please contact your local field officer, **Anthony Moulton** on **0408 317 716** or phone Southern Rural Water on 1300 139 510.

Southern Rural Water is publishing local water reports for all basins. You can view these online at our website www.srw.com.au

PLEASE DON'T DRINK OUR WATER

ANY water from sources managed or licensed by Southern Rural Water, including irrigation storages, channels, rivers and creeks, groundwater and farm dams, is untreated. It should not be considered safe for human consumption without proper treatment.